

STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTIES OF POTTER AND RANDALL
CITY OF AMARILLO

Minutes

On June 10, 2019, the Beautification and Public Arts Advisory Board met at 4:30 pm in City Hall at 601 S. Buchanan Street, Room 306 for a Regular Meeting.

VOTING MEMBERS	PRESENT	TOTAL ATTENDED	TOTAL MEETINGS
Jason Boyett	Y	16	16
Jacob Breeden	Y	15	16
Rhonda Dittfurth	Y	2	2
Beth Duke	Y	15	16
Sonja Gross	Y	13	16
Angela Knapp Eggers	y	14	16
Eddy Sauer	N	13	16
Kelley Sims	N	11	16
Andi Wardlaw	N	14	16

Also in attendance were:

Sherman Bass Amarillo Civic Center Complex General Manager
Kevin Starbuck Assistant City Manager
Courtney White Assistant City Attorney
Michael Kashuba Director of Parks and Recreation
Karen Shipley Amarillo Civic Center Complex Administrative Assistant

Item 1. **Call to Order and Announcements.** Chair Jason Boyett called the meeting to order at 4:35 PM.

Item 2. **Minutes.** Chair Boyett asks if there was any discussion of last month’s minutes. Beth Duke moved to accept the minutes as written and Jacob Breeden seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Item 3. **The Board will discuss and receive reports on the following current matters or projects:**

A. Inclusion of a beautification and public arts section in Parks and Recreation master plan project. Sherman Bass reported the Parks Board has agreed include beautification and public arts in their master plan. Chair Boyett ask Michael Kashuba what he sees our participation looking like in this process. Mr. Kashuba said questions would be included in the survey. Our board will also be included in focus groups. Parks & Rec will take the award of the Master Plan to Council in a week. Mr. Kashuba said the project would take about a year and it

would be in four phases. Ms. Duke asked if the Thompson Park Pool survey was a part of this. Mr. Kashuba said that Council wanted to get some feedback directly on that item. Depending on what the findings are and what Council wants to do, it may be incorporated in the master plan.

B. Community clean-up efforts. The board discussed presentations from Mr. Yalamanchili during previous public comment periods. Chair Boyett and Mr. Bass met with Mayor Nelson about branding these efforts and the City supporting them. She loves the idea. The board will look at partnering in the future, possibly for a community wide clean-up in September of 2020.

Item 4. **Discuss and consider Award of Mural Grants.** Mr. Bass we had two applications prior to the original deadline. Snack Pak 4 Kids of Texas, LLC – up to \$4000 – 2406 SW 3rd Ave. and Old Tascosa Brewing Co. LLC – up to \$3,000 – 3100 SW 6th Ave. Rhonda Dittfurth motioned to award both applicants in the full amount requested. Mr. Breeden seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. Assistant City Manager Kevin Starbuck was present and is prepared to award based upon the board’s action tonight. Mr. Bass said we have received one more application and we are aware of one company that wants to apply. Next year the program will need to adjust dates in order to make the application deadline at least ten days prior to a Board meeting so that legal can do their part and the sub-committee can do their part prior to the meeting. Ms. Beth Duke asked if there is a way to confirm receipt of completed applications, Mr. Bass apologized for not confirming with Ms. Duke, but that the confirmation of receipt of applications through muralgrants@amarillo.gov had occurred.

Item 5. **Discuss and Consider Beautification Projects.** Chair Boyett says we have had a lot of discussion about the tree project and whether to do a tree rebate program or a removal program or both. Ms. Knapp Eggers said that she was thinking one or the other.

A. Sponsoring a tree rebate program for FY 2019-2020. Discussion revolved around how much the board wishes to request and whether we want to do one or both of the programs. Consensus centered on remembering that this would be a pilot program and would need to be as impactful as possible.

B. Sponsoring a tree removal and replacement program for FY 2019-2020. Ms. Courtney White said that the members could discuss what they prefer. The general consensus of the group leaned towards the removal and replacement option. Ms. Duke mentioned trying to tie into neighborhood plans for possible funding. Chair Boyett suggested that we need to pick a specific area and focus on it. He also thinks we need to discuss what those options are. Mr. Breeden motioned that the FY 19-20 beautification program be dead tree removal/ replacement, Sonja Gross seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

C. Assigning areas of the city for board members to inventory dead trees. A map of Amarillo was displayed on the overhead. Discussion revolved around different neighborhoods and corridors that would be considered, as well as neighborhood impact vs. tourism impact, private vs. commercial, and owner-occupied vs. tenant occupied.

Volunteer driving assignments were determined as follows:

Two blocks north and south of 6th street: Rhonda (south) and Jason (north)

Two - three blocks west and east of North Hughes: Sonja (west) and Angela (east)

Two blocks west and around Tri-State Fairgrounds: Jacob and Sherman

Amarillo Blvd to 24th and Eastern to Whitaker: Andi and Kelly if available

Focus of the survey should be dead trees, curbside or easy to access, i.e. not fenced. Volunteers should mark on a diagram of the area surveyed with as much detail as they feel necessary.

Discussed eligibility based upon our determination, volunteer application, or application by third party. Mr. Starbuck said another area that might be considered is Eastridge. As you explore these areas you can come up with a focus area and at some point in time ask one of the neighborhoods to nominate trees for removal and replacement. That will make the next step in the process easier.

Item 6. **Discuss and Consider Master Plan.** Chair Boyett asked for members to report on their homework of ideas to focus on for the master plan.

- Ms. Duke wants to share Center City's inventory of art in public places, historical buildings, and cultural assets.
- Ms. Knapp Eggers wants to do something with beautification that we can maintain. She would like to work in tandem with the City and the Parks & Rec department and maintain a relationship with the Hotel / Motel association and TPID board. On the public arts side have a recognition of some existing public art that can be enhanced or left alone. To create public art through commercial development with a proposed assessment of funds, continue the mural project. Discussion included government assessment as well. Ms. Knapp Eggers would like to consider high school or college students mentoring programs in the future
- Mr. Breeden would like to explore public accessible playgrounds and replace the old playground equipment. On public art, the inclusion of a true public art plan with some one-year goals with that. The first of that is to secure city-wide funding for the public art program with city funding, grant funding, and commercial developers that receive incentives/rebates from the city. Establishing clear and accessible processes for artists, and businesses and clear processes for the grants the City pursues and commissions. He would like to push for a creation of an Arts & Culture division for the City. He would also like to see a fund established for the city to commission public art.
- Ms. Gross would like to have incentives focused on trees, greenery or flowers around parking lots for commercial beautification. She would like to see enforcement of the zoning laws. She would still like to resurrect Keep Amarillo Beautiful. She wants to have some kind of partnership with Master Gardeners. She likes the idea of adopt an alley program. Her number one priority is the gateways must change.
- Ms. Dittfurth would like to see emphasis on historic preservation and revitalization.
- Chair Boyett said that most of his ideas have been mentioned already. He is passionate about a percent clause then fund and manage it. Beyond that his passion has always

been public art on the mural side. He would also like to see more collaboration with other city departments like bus shelters with art and park restrooms with murals. Chair Boyett asked staff to compile the list for the July meeting.

Item 7. **Public Forum.** No citizens were present.

Item 8. **Consider Future Agenda Items and Next Meeting Date and Time.** July 8, 2019 will be the next meeting date at 4:30 pm. Mr. Bass requested an additional one agenda item meeting for finalizing the grant applications. The date will be June 24, 2019 at 4:30 pm.

Item 9. **Adjourn.** Chair Boyett adjourned the meeting at 5:58 pm.

ATTEST:



Sherman Bass, Secretary



Jason Boyett, Chair